



California Public Utilities Commission

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUC Program Provides Funding For Infrastructure For Advanced Telecommunications Services

SAN FRANCISCO, June 2, 2005 - The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) today announced that, per Senate Bill (SB) 720, it will use funds remaining (up to \$3 million) in its California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) to provide infrastructure for digital divide projects

The CTF program provides a 50 percent discount on monthly recurring charges for lines for high-speed telecommunications services, such as digital subscriber line services (DSL) and T-1 technology, to schools, libraries, hospitals and health clinics that are owned and operated by a municipal or county government or a hospital district, and community based organizations.

Under SB 720, if there are funds that have not been solicited for the CTF program in a fiscal year but have already been included in the budget for the program, that money will be used to fund 40 percent of the one-time installation costs for entities that do not have access to advanced telecommunications services.

Discounts are only for new, advanced services customers. Customers who are installing additional advanced service capability are not eligible for this discount. Installation dates must be after Sept. 23, 2003 and prior to March 1, 2006. Claims must be submitted by service providers prior to March 1, 2006. Claims and supporting workpapers must be submitted using the claim form at www.cpuc.ca.gov.

Claims will be paid on a first-come, first serve basis. If the funding is exhausted prior to March 1, 2006, the CTF will be unable to reimburse those claims. The PUC's Telecommunications Division will provide the status of the funds remaining for the benefit of potential claimants.

For more information on the PUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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